



Acknowledgements

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COMMUNITY

Think of all the beauty still left around you and be happy.

Anne Frank (1929-1945), Diary of a Young Girl, 1952

LOCATION

Macomb County is located north of Wayne County and east of Oakland County along Lake St. Clair. It borders Bordman on the north, 8 Mile to the south, Dequindre to the west and Lake St. Clair (and County Line Road) to the east. It is home to approximately 840,000 people who live in both suburban and rural communities. The southern communities, or "inner ring" suburbs, in the county are more dense and established. In the mid-section of the county there are fast growing suburban communities with four of the ten fastest growing municipalities in the State of Michigan located in the central portion of the county. The northern communities tend to be more rural in nature. There are 27 municipalities in the county each with its own Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The Macomb County Master Plan focuses on recreational assets for the entire county; examining current recreational opportunities available in the county and identifying potential opportunities for improvement and/or expansion. The Macomb County Parks and Recreation Department will have jurisdiction over the County Recreation and Open Space Plan.

HISTORY OF PARKS AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES IN SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN

Recreational development within Macomb County has followed the growth of successive levels of government. In general, until the 1920's, local governments were responsible for providing parks for their communities. Most of these parks were relatively small, consisting of picnic areas, playgrounds, and baseball diamonds. They served as the village green for social gatherings and as after-school play areas for children.

Shortly after the formation of the Michigan State Park Commission in 1920, the Dodge family donated the land for Dodge State Park No. 8, now the City of Sterling Heights Dodge Park. The establishment of Burlison State Roadside Park on M-53 near Romeo coincided with early automobile use and prompted weekend drives to the countryside. As with local parks, development of these state park facilities were usually limited to picnic tables and open fields for play. Major facility development in state parks did not occur until the 1930's when park master plans were developed under the Civilian Conservation Corps Program.

In 1942, the citizens of Macomb, Wayne, Oakland, Washtenaw and Livingston Counties approved the creation of the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority (HCMA) to plan, build and maintain large public parks within their counties. Using the basins of the Huron

and Clinton Rivers as recreation resources, the HCMA planned to develop these parks using funds derived from a property tax levy.

The Macomb County Parks and Recreation Commission was created in 1966 to serve the specific needs of Macomb County residents. As a first step toward this goal, the Parks and Recreation Commission along with the Planning Commission produced the 1971 Outdoor Recreation and Open Space Report for Macomb County, Michigan. The report was designed to guide the Commission's acquisition and development of parkland. Macomb County's 1991 Comprehensive Recreation and Open Space Master Plan provided a means for addressing the many water related as well as other recreational needs within the County. In 1997 and 2002, a Comprehensive Recreation and Open Space Master Plan was developed by the Parks and Recreation Commission with the support of the Planning Commission. The plan included information on all parks throughout the county. It was intended to be a resource tool for the Parks Department and other governmental agencies in the future development of parks and open space within Macomb County.

DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

Certain characteristics of a population have been proven to affect the type, location and amount of recreational activities necessary for a geographical area. Although no one factor seems to work as an independent indicator, a combination of the geographical distribution of the population, race, sex, age, income, employment, school enrollment and location of special needs groups forms a region's recreation profile and can aid in predicting future recreation needs.

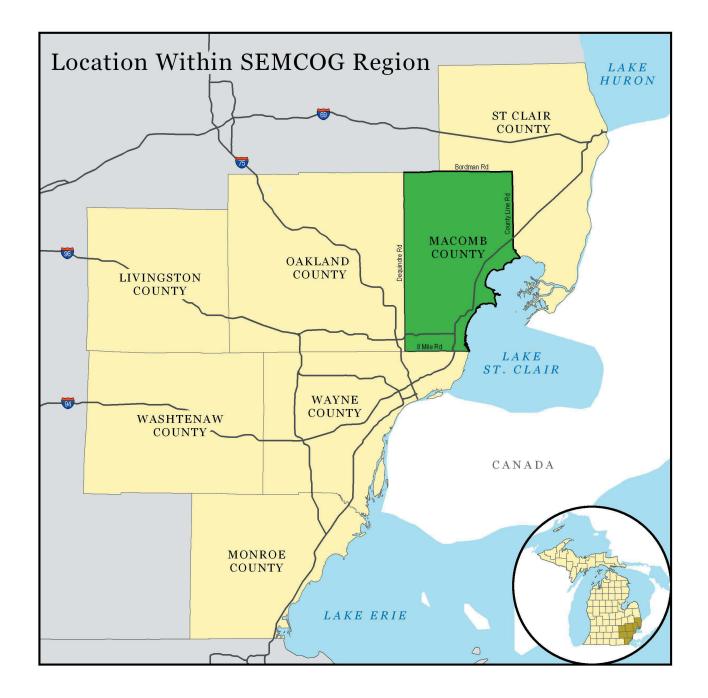
COUNTY POPULATION AND GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

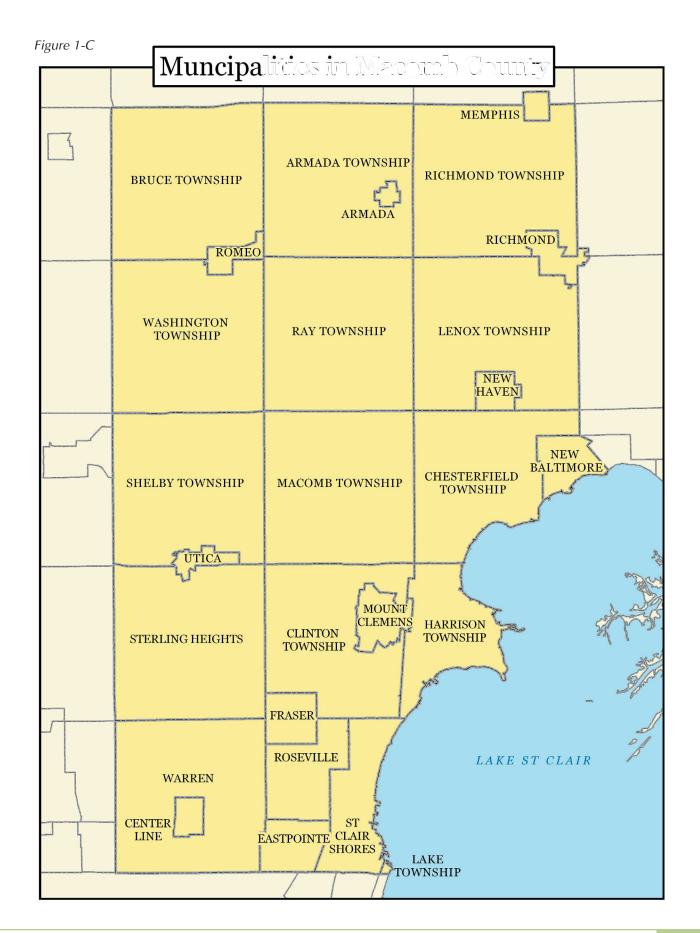
According to the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments' (SEMCOG) population estimate in February 2006, there were 836,062 people living in Macomb County. The 2000 census reported the Macomb County population at 788,149; this is an increase of 47,913 people or six percent over six years. The majority of residents live in the South Central and Southern areas of the County. Included in this region of the county are three of the top ten largest communities in Michigan: Warren (3rd), Sterling Heights (6th) and Clinton Township (10th). SEMCOG's Regional Development Forecast (RDF) predicts that Macomb County's population will grow 18.1 percent from 2000 to 2030 with the largest growth occurring in municipalities in the northern portion of the county.

Figure 1-A



Figure 1-B





A larger population means a greater need to provide diverse recreation facilities. Recreational facilities are generally located where the population concentrations occur. *Figure 1-D* depicts Macomb County municipalities' projected population growth from 2000 to 2030. From this figure we can see where the population concentrations are predicted to be. Comparing this data to the locations of our current parks and recreation facilities helps assess current recreation facilities as well as plan for new ones.

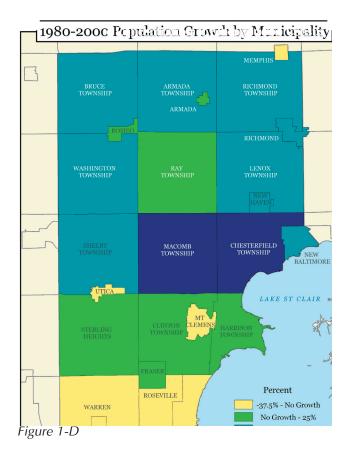
The expected future growth in the northern parts of Macomb County is related to the expansion of public utilities and highway networks, as well as typically lower land costs. Although it is predicted that there will be major population increases in the northern communities, some factors may effect this outcome. Urban renewal and in-fill developments in the southern communities as well as shrinking household size and increased energy concerns may lessen population decreases in the south and limit growth in the north. Stony Creek Metropark and Wolcott Mill serve many of the fastest growing municipalities, but future growth will increase the need for additional recreation opportunities as well as natural area and open space preservation. Not only is it important to concentrate on active recreation facilities, but also preserving natural land for passive recreation. Parkland acquisition and development is generally less costly before residential and commercial development occurs.

AGE

The age of a community's population determines both the type and use of recreational facilities. Teenagers need active recreation while older residents generally prefer passive or group activities. According to SEMCOG's RDF, the largest population increases by age groups will be in the 0-4 years category, 18-34 years and 65+. These increases emphasize the need for diverse recreation facilities that address the needs of people of all ages.

SENIOR POPULATION

The 2000 U.S. Census reported that Macomb County had 107,651 persons 65 or older, this accounts for 13.6% of the total population. According to SEM-COG's RDF, the elderly population (65+) in Macomb County will jump to 232,534 in 2030. This is an astonishing 116% increase in the senior population in Macomb County over a 30 year period. See Figure 1-E. This increase calls for additional recreational facilities and programs to meet the needs of these seniors.



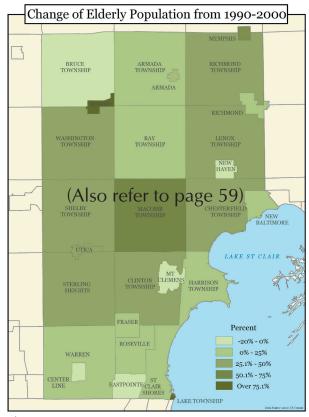


Figure 1-E

GENDER

The county population is almost evenly distributed between male (49%) and female (51%) according to the 2000 U.S. Census numbers. While the difference is negligible, recreational plans should be cognizant of the needs of both sexes, particularly in developing facilities for team sports. To keep costs down, plans should be developed that create multi-purpose facilities. For example, developing ball diamonds that can be used for both baseball and softball.

RACE

The 2000 U.S. Census reported that the majority of the county's population is white. Less then nine percent of the population is classified as a minority. African Americans are the largest minority with a total population of 21,326, while Asians accounted for 16,843 persons. All other races totaled 19,710.

DISABLED PERSONS

In the past two decades we have seen an increased awareness in the rights of disabled persons. Prior to the 1990 American with Disabilities Act (ADA), only federally funded projects were required to meet accessibility requirements. After the passage of the ADA, all services, including those provided by private companies, were required to comply with federal standards. It is important when planning for recreational facilities, both existing and future, to comply with the federal standards for accessibility.

In order to plan for the recreation needs of the disabled, it is useful to understand where concentrations are found within the county of this particular group. The U.S. Census's definition uses three distinct classifications of disabled: persons with mobility limitations, persons with self-care limitations, and those with a combination of both. Mobility limitation is defined as having a health condition that lasts six or more months and which makes it difficult to go outside the home alone. Self-care limitation is defined as having a health condition that lasts for six months and makes is difficult to take care of their own personal needs.

SCHOOL ENROLLMENT

Many small communities and rural areas do not have adequate funds for park and recreation facilities and must share facilities with local school districts. The schools' recreational facilities are designed to meet the needs of children ages six through eighteen. Although the schools' athletic teams utilize many of the facilities during after-school hours, weekend and summer hours are usually typically available for public use.

Figure 1-F

Macomb County Intermediate School District

Full-Time Equivalency Counts

School District	K-12	
Anchor Bay	6,390.47	
Armada	2,045.29	
Center Line	2,771.84	
Chippewa Valley	14,295.99	
Clintondale	2,437.53	
East Detroit	5,199.85	
Fitzgerald	2,745.44	
Fraser	4,963.72	
Lake Shore	3,020.28	
Lakeview	2,896.83	
L'anse Creuse	10,835.79	
Mt. Clemens	2,287.90	
New Haven	1,186.39	
Richmond	1,909.20	
Romeo	5,459.60	
Roseville	6,061.24	
South Lake	2,459.60	
Utica	28,568.60	
Van Dyke	3,702.02	
Warren Con.	14,848.36	
Warren Woods	2,980.57	
Total	127,066.82	

Schools mainly provide team recreational opportunities rather than individual recreation opportunities. *Figure 1-F* lists school enrollment for elementary, middle school, and high schools in Macomb County. As children proceed from elementary to high school, their recreational needs change and plans must be made accordingly.

In addition, school district totals can be used as a bench mark for beginning to plan for the recreational needs of these various age groups. *Figure 1-G* shows 2006 school district boundaries and depicts the current concentration of the youth populations. Although school district size varies widely, correlation between urban, suburban, and rural districts and the general

population distribution is evident.

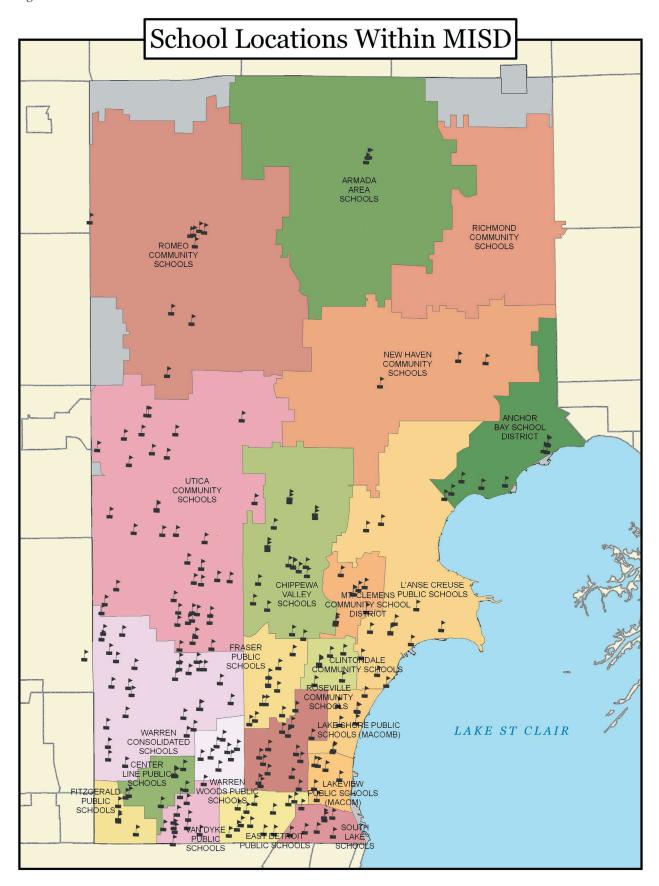
INCOME DATA

Median household income saw a 33% increase from \$38,931 in 1989 to \$52,102 in 1999. The largely middle class income level of Macomb County residents allows a greater freedom of choice when participating in recreational activities. While high-income families frequently utilize private and exclusive facilities of limited membership, middle and low-income families are more frequent users of public facilities and programs that provide a wide range of activities at minimal cost.

EMPLOYMENT PATTERNS

According to the 2004 American Community Survey (ACS), the top two primary employers were manufacturing (23%) and educational, health and social services (17%). In addition, the most common occupations were management and professional (31%) and sales and office occupations (27%). Macomb County's 73 industrial parks and skilled workforce have made it the ideal location for many of the nation's leading manufacturers. There are roughly forty Fortune 100 facilities located in Macomb County. Fortune 100 facilities are the largest industrial corporations in the United States as reported by Fortune Magazine. This mix of industry and skilled labor force makes a strong long-term economic base for the county.

Figure 1-G







P R O C E S S

Plans are only good intentions unless they immediately degenerate into hard work.

Peter Drucker (1909-2005)

PLANNING PROCESS

This section provides an overview and general description of the process the County went through to develop the Recreation and Open Space Master Plan for the Macomb County Parks system.

BACKGROUND STUDIES

The Macomb Planning & Economic Development Department worked together with the Parks and Recreation Department to gather and organize information and data regarding Macomb County and the region. Data was collected from a variety of sources including: County staff, the U.S. Census Bureau, County GIS, the previous Recreation Master Plan, adjacent Counties, and field observation.

The Community Description chapter includes a brief introduction to the County, its regional setting, the jurisdiction of the Plan and the overall focus and purpose for the Plan.

The Administrative Structure chapter of the Recreation and Open Space Plan describes how the County Parks system is managed, operated, and maintained. This includes information regarding the Parks Department organizational structure, staff responsibilities, as well as a fiscal analysis of the last few years revenues and expenditures as it relates to parks and recreation staff, programs, and facilities.

The Recreation Inventory chapter of the Plan includes a description of the facilities at the two County Parks: Freedom Hill and the Macomb Orchard Trail. A facilities inventory was conducted in the Summer of 2006. The location of the two parks is described and mapped, as well as the various programs and events offered by the County Parks Department. The Inventory section also describes recreation opportunities and facilities within the County that are provided by others such as the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Huron Clinton Metropolitan Authority and local entities.

BASIS FOR ACTION

The Basis for Action chapter of this plan outlines and describes the variety of factors and issues that are happening within the County and within the region that have an affect on the provision of recreation facilities and open space. The contents of this chapter provide the foundation and validation for the goals, objectives and capital improvements desired over the next five years. Several factors affect the provision of recreation including previous and on-going studies, recreation

trends, demographic shifts and areas of growth, as well as input gathered from the public and staff.

PUBLIC WORKSHOP

A public workshop was held on October 10, 2006 at the Macomb Intermediate School District Building in Clinton Township. Approximately 23 people attended the workshop. The goals for the workshop were to:

- Raise awareness that Macomb County is working on updating the 5-year Recreation & Open Space Plan.
- Gather public input as it relates to:
 - Desires for additional County Parks
 - Desires, issues, and concerns regarding the Macomb Orchard Trail
 - Desires, issues, and concerns regarding Freedom Hill
 - Begin to gauge the public's priorities for the County Park System.

Attendees were asked to present their thoughts and desires for the County Parks system. At the end of the discussion session, participants identified their top 2 priority issues for additional parks, top 2 priorities for the Macomb Orchard Trail, and the top 2 priorities for Freedom Hill. The results of this workshop were utilized to assist in developing goals, objectives, and suggested capital improvements. (Appendix A)

ACTION PLAN

The Action Plan chapter of the report outlines the direction that the County would like to take over the next five years. The Action Plan includes goal statements for particular topics including Acquisition, Natural Resources, Facility Development and Improvement, Maintenance and Operation, Connectivity, Funding, Partnerships, and Communication and Advocacy. For each goal, multiple objectives were developed to provide more detail and action oriented recommendations. The County considers the goals and objectives to be just as important and significant as the capital improvements schedule. The capital improvements schedule details particular projects the County is interested in pursuing and implementing over the next five years.

PUBLIC HEARING

The Parks and Recreation Commission reviewed the draft plan at their meeting on January, 10, 2007. Comments were noted and edits made prior to the draft being made available for public review. The draft Recreation and Open Space Master Plan was made available for public review on January, 17, 2007. The draft plan was made available on the County website, at the County Administration Building, located at 1 S. Main St., Mt. Clemens, MI and at Freedom Hill County Park, located at 15000 Metro Parkway, Sterling Heights, MI. All those that attended the initial public workshop in October and provided contact information received an email alerting them of the completed draft plan and the upcoming public hearing. The draft plan was also presented to the County Planning Commission at their January 2007 meeting.

The Parks and Recreation Commission held an officially noticed public hearing on January 10th, 2007. An overview of the planning process, findings, and Action Program were reviewed and public comment taken. Approximately 11 people provided comment on the draft plan. In general, comments included that there is a need for more parks along the Clinton River and Lake St. Clair and more opportunities for children.

ADOPTION





STRUCTURE

Make no little plans; they have no magic to stir men's blood . . . Make big plans, aim high in hope and work.

Daniel H. Burnham (1846 0 1912)

ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

The Macomb County Parks and Recreation Commission was established in 1966 by the Macomb County Board of Commissioners pursuant to Act 261 of the Public Act of 1965. Membership of the 10 member Commission, by statue, includes the Chairman of the Road Commission, the Chairman of the Planning Commission, the Public Works Commissioner, and seven members appointed by the Board of Commissioners, not more than three of whom are members of the Board. The Parks and Recreation Commission is a planning and policy-making body which operates under the general control of the Macomb County Board of Commissioners.

The Commission cooperates with local, regional, and state parks and recreation agencies and follows the County Recreation and Open Space Plan to fill the recreation needs of the county residents dependant upon many factors including available budget, staffing and organizational structure. The Commission meets monthly with periodic special meetings.

STAFFING AND ORGANIZATION

The Parks and Recreation Department has seven full-time personnel on staff. Reporting directly to the Parks and Recreation Commission is the Parks Administrator who serves as a technical advisor to the Commission and supervises all park activities, programs, and staff. In addition, the Parks Administrator is responsible for annual budgeting, funding grants, preliminary design for park improvements, contract administration, and public relations.

The Parks Foreman reports to the Parks Administrator. He/she oversees daily park maintenance and administers physical facilities, as well as, supervises the eight temporary staff members whose duties include grounds and building maintenance tasks and park operations.

Other full time staff members include the positions of four Park Aide II who are responsible for site functions of major events and supervising of seasonal staff.

Twenty-five seasonal personnel perform grounds maintenance, fee collection and traffic direction duties during the high-use summer recreation season. Twelve volunteers provide limited planting services through the cooperative extension services' master gardener program.

BUDGET

The Parks and Recreation budget is the financial tool for implementing of all development and operations initiatives. A copy of the Commission's 2007 budget is included in *Appendix B*. A total of \$1,313,334.00

in expenditures is adopted for the year of which \$16,600.00 is capital outlay and \$370,677.00 is for operations. The remainder of the budget covers internal services, personnel and security service expenses.

The Commission works toward returning much of its cost to the county by a variety of revenue sources. All revenue received is turned over to the county general fund for redistribution in general fund allocations. In addition, federal and state funding assistance programs have been utilized for park acquisition and development. Future acquisition and development of parks and facilities may require a recreation millage to ensure timely and quality additions to the county park system.

A well maintained plan and adequate funding for operations are essential to the Commission's ability to maintain high standards in a growing park system. Not only does Macomb County pride itself on its high quality, it also maintains high safety standards in providing a safe environment for park patrons and employees. Detailed maintenance plans with measureable standards must be developed for all facilities and tied directly to the operating budget. Additional maintenance and administrative staff will be required as the park system grows and new facilities are added. The Commission's decision for future expansion and development should first consider the ability to operate these facilities in a high quality manner.

RELATIONSHIP WITH PUBLIC AGENCIES

Park Administrator, Anthony G. Casasanta is very involved in parks and recreation organizations and programming in both Macomb County and the State of Michigan. He is a 2007 member of:

MRPA - Michigan Recreation and Park Association

MACPRO - Michigan Association of County Parks and Recreation Officials

Southeast Michigan Greenways - Advisory Committee Member

The Park administrator plays an active role in these various organizations decision making processes to insure coordination and limit redundancy. In addition, the Park Administrator's membership in these organizations provides Macomb County with a representative and a vote in design of the park systems in Southeast Michigan. For this reason, the Park Administrator will continue to maintain these memberships that meet the goals and objectives of the Macomb County Parks and Recreation Department.

Macomb County Parks and Recreation Administrative Structure

